

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9816
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 2897

E.O.11652:GDS
TAJS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: HIGH ARMY COUNCIL DECISION

REF: MADRID 2803

SUMMARY AND COMMENT: THERE ARE NOW THREE VERSIONS
OF THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE HIGH ARMY COUNCIL, (1) A
FORMAL PUBLIC VERSION (PAR 1) CONSISTENT WITH THE
UNOFFICIAL ACCOUNT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED (REFTEL). (2)
A PROVOCATION (PARA 2) REPORTEDLY AN EARLY DRAFT BUT IN
ANY CASE PRESUMABLY REFLECTING THE VIEWS OF THE OFFICERS
INVOLVED AND 3 A PRIVATE OFFICIAL VERSION (PARAS 4-8)
WHILE THE LAST VERSION WHICH WILL BECOME PUBLIC SHORTLY
DOES NOT MAKE THE COUP INSINUATIONS CONTAINED IN THE
PROVOCATION, IT IS NEVERTHELESS THE FIRST OVERT ENTRY
OF THE ARMY INTO THE POLITICAL AREA SINCE FRANCO'S DEATH
DEFATT, WITH WHOM THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED,
IS REPORTING SEPARATELY ON AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT THE
"PROVOCATION" REPRESENTED THE FIRST DECISION OF THE HIGH
ARMY COUNCIL WHICH WAS LATER PERSUADED BY THE FIST VICE
PRESIDENT GUTIERREZ MELLADO TO ABANDON THAT FORMULATION
(WITH ITS INSINUATION OF A THREAT OF A COUP), IN FAVOR
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OF THE FINAL OFFICIAL VERSION. THEN THE PUBLIC VERSION
WE HAVE CONFIRMED IS SIMPLY A CONDENSATION PRODUCED
IN CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION OF THE FINAL OFFICIAL DOCUMENT.
REPORTS FROM BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SOURCES CONTAINED
IN SAYING THAT WHILE THERE IS NO DISPOSITION EXCEPT
POSSIBLY FEW HOT HEADS TO STAGE A COUP SENIOR
MILITARY OFFICERS AND ALINZA POPULAR LEADERS ARE

COLLUDING TO FORCE A SITUATION IN WHICH BOTH SUAREZ AND GUTIERREZ MELLADO WITH WHOM THE ARMY IS ALSO ANGRY WILL BE POLIICALLY DEFENSETRATED LEAVING SUAREZ TOTALLY OUT OF THE ELECTORAL PICTURE AND END SCENARIO PROCIDING AN ELECTORAL VICTORY FOR THE ALINZA PPULAR. IN SUM WHILE THE IMMEDIATE TENSION IS OVER, THE ACTIONS OF THE ARMY CAST A SHADOW OVER THE ABILITY OF SUAREZ AND TH KING TO MOVE THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS THROUGH TO ITS CONCLUSION. THE SAME TIME, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SUAREZ IS CONTEMPLATING AFTER THE CABINET MEETING ANNOUNCING VIA TV. WHICH IS A POWERFUL WEAPON IN HIS HANDS THE DATE OF THE ELECTIONS AND GENERALLY REASSURING THE POPULACE BY WHICH HE IS HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM, THAT THE GOS WILL PERSERVE FOR CLEAN AND UNFETTERED ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

1. THE PRESS APRIL 15 CARRIED THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE: "IN VIEW OF THE DIVERSITY OF INFORMATION APPARING IN TH NATIONAL PRESS, THE PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE OF THE MILITARY AND TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE MINISTER OF TH ARMY STATES: THE HIGH ARMY COUNCIL IN ITS MEETING OF THE 12TH OF THE CURRENT MONTH AGREED UNANIMOUSLY TO INFORM THE MINISTER OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS OF VIEW ACCORDING TO THE RECORD TAKEN TO THAT EFFECT. THE LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS CAUSED A GENERAL REPULSION IN ALL UNITS OF THE ARMY. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING NATIONAL INTERESTS OF A HIGHER ORDER IT ACCEPTS IN A DISCIPLINED WAY THE FAIT ACCOMPLI. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE COUNCIL CONSIEERS THE GOVT SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT THE ARMY, UNANIMOUSLY UNITED, CONSIDERS IT AN UNDECLAINABLE OBLIAGTION TO DEFEND THE UNITY OF THE FATHERLAND ITS FLAG. THE INTEGRITY OF THE MONARCHIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE GOOD NAME OF THE ARMED FORCES.

2. THE DAY BEFORE WHILE MOST NEWSPPAER (REF) HAD CARRIED REPORTS CONSISTENT WITH THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT THE FAR-RIGHT ALCAZAR ALSO HAD TWO ADDITIONAL POINTS IN ITS ACCOUNT THEY READ: "THE ARMY EXPRESSED IT DISGUST IN THE FACE OF THE DETERIORATION OF THE FIGURE OF THE KING, THROUGH THE FAULT OF THE GOVT. IT CONSIDERS IT INADMISSABLE THAT THROUGH AN ADMINISTEATIVE ERROR THE MINISTER OF THE ARMY WAS NOT INFORMED IN SUFFICIENT TIME A TRANSCENDENTAL DECISION BY THE GOVT OF WHICH HE IS PART. AND LASTLY THE ARMY IS DISPOSED TO RELOVE THE PROBLEMS BY OTHER MEANS IF IT SHOULD BE NECESSARY", (ACCORDING TO AN ARMY OFFICER OF UNCERTAIN RELAILABILITY WHO PROVIDED A COPY OF A DCUMENT THE REAL VERSION AGREED UPON BY THE COUNCIL

WAS VIRTUALLY THAT PUBLISHED BY ALCAZAR, WITH THE ADDITIONAL
POINT IN THE FIRST PART THAT THE ARMY "ISNOT DISPOSED TO
ACCEPT MORE FAITS ACCOMPLISH")

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 2897

E.O.11762: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: HIGH ARMY COUNCIL DDECISION

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3. SPANISH ARMY OFFICERS OF THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF TALING
WITH DATT AND A/ARMA SAID THAT THE ALCAZAR VERSION (PARA 2)
WAS FALSE AND ITS OWN VERSION AND THAT THE PRESS STATEMENT
VERSION (PARA 2) WAS A SUMMARY PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OF THE
REAL VERSION. THE ENTIRE REAL VERSION, THEY SAID WAS
CONTAINED IN A OFFICIAL NOTICE WHICH WAS BEING SENT OVER THE
ARMY MINISTER NAME TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMY. THEY
PROVIDED A COPY OF THAT TEXT, AND IT QUOTED IN PARAGRAPHS
4-8 BELOW (WE GATHER FROM AND INDEPENDENT OBSERVER THAT THIS
DOSCMENT IS ALREADY BEING DISTRIBUTED).

4. BEGIN TEXT: IN THE AFTERNOON OF LAST APRIL 12. THE HIGH
ARMY COUNCIL CONVOKED BY THE MINISTER OF THE DEPARTMENT AND
PRESIDED OVER BY THE LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHIEF OF STAFF OF
THE ARMY BECUASE OF THE ILLNESS OF THE FORMER MET WITH THE
PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE LEGALIZATIONOF TH COMMUNIST
PARTY OF SPAIN AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
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FOLLOWED TO THAT EFFECT BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ACCORDING TO WHICH (PROCEDURE) THE ARMY MINISTER WAS KEPT UNIFORMED AND TO ONE SIDE (MARGINADO)

5. THE HIGH COUNCIL CONSIDERED THAT THE LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SPAIN IS A FAIT ACCOMPLI WHICH IT ACCEPTS IN A DISCIPLINED WAY. BUT CONSCIOUS OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY AND SUBJECT TO THE MANDATE OF THE LAW, IT EXPRESSES THE PROFOUND AND UNANIMOUS REPUSION OF THE ARMY BEFORE THAT LEGALIZATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACT CARRIED OUT UNILATERALLY, GIVEN THE GREAT POLITICAL TRANSCENDENCE OF SUCH DECISION.

6. THE LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SPAIN BY ITSELF, AND POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MOMENT, DETERMINE THE PROFOUND CONCERN OF THE HIGH COUNCIL, WITH REGARD TO INSTANCES SO FUNDAMENTAL AS ARE THE UNITY OF THE FATHERLAND, THE HONOR AND RESPECT OF ITS FLAG THE SOLIDARITY AND PERMANENCE OF THE CROWN AND THE PRESTIGE AND DIGNITY OF THE ARMED FORCES.

7. IN THIS REGARD THE HIGH COUNCIL DEMANDS THAT THE GOVT ADOPT WITH FIRMNESS AND ENERGY ALL SUCH DISPOSITIONS AND MEASURES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE THE OUTLINED PRINCIPLES.

8. CONNECTED WITH WHATEVER DECISION IS ADOPTED IN DEFENSE OF THE TRANSCENDENTAL VALUES ALREADY MENTIONED THE ARMY COMMITS ITSELF TO CARRYING OUT VIGOROUSLY WITH ALL THE MEANS WITHIN ITS GRASP, ITS DUTIES TOWARD THE FATHERLAND AND THE CROWN. END TEXT. STABLER

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